

When corporate swindling at Enron and other large corporations cheated millions of Americans out of their life savings, it was Paul Sarbanes' leadership that enabled the Senate to pass the most far-reaching corporate accountability reform since the Securities and Exchange Commission was created 70 years before.

That Sarbanes-Oxley reform law passed in 2002. It was designed to prevent the kind of corporate abuses that had so damaged America's economy and shaken the faith of the American people in the economic markets.

In 2002, things came full circle for me. There was created an award in the name of Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois—a man whom I first met as a college intern who inspired me to get started in this business. Paul Sarbanes won in 2002 and became the first recipient of the Senator Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award that is presented by the University of Illinois to honor men and women in public service who exhibit the finest qualities of leadership. It was a perfect match, and, for me, it came full circle.

What a coincidence it is that the people who have been my heroes in public life so far, so many are named Paul: Paul Douglas, who had started me as an intern, who introduced me to Paul Simon, who preceded me in the U.S. Senate, where I served with Paul Sarbanes.

They basically say in my office that I have been raised according to the Gospel of "Saints" Paul.

I want to quote briefly from Senator Sarbanes' final speech in the Senate before he retired in 2006. It speaks powerfully to the kind of leaders America is looking for today.

Here is what Paul Sarbanes said:

Throughout my years in public service, I have worked to the limits of my ability to provide the people of Maryland and the Nation dedicated, informed, and independent representation based upon the fundamental principles of integrity and intelligence. I have been guided in this effort by a vision of a decent and just America, based on a strong sense of community and offering fairness and opportunity to all its people.

I know I join all my colleagues in thanking Paul for doing his part so nobly and so well to help us move toward a more perfect Union.

And let me say a word about his wife Christine. She was his real partner in life. I can recall when he retired, and I said: Paul, I am sorry to see you go. And he said: Let me ask you a question. When are you supposed to leave around here? It is a question many of us have asked ourselves over and over.

As far as he was concerned, I said: What do you want to do the most? He said: Travel with Christine.

They were able to do that for a limited period of time because Christine died of cancer in 2009. She was a wonderful person—intelligent, just like Paul—and the two of them were pure happiness together.

Loretta and I wish to express our condolences to the Sarbanes family, es-

pecially to their children—Michael, Janet, and a man I have come to know and respect, his son, Congressman JOHN SARBANES, as well as their grandchildren, his friends and former staff members, and the countless people whose lives are better because of Paul Sarbanes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALE RESOLUTION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the last 4 years, we have seen a series of encouraging developments in the Middle East—a place where there isn't a long trend line of positive developments.

We have destroyed the ISIS caliphate. We have brought down dangerous terrorist leaders like al-Baghdadi and, of course, the head of the IRGC, Soleimani, who was personally responsible for American blood on his hands, particularly providing explosives that penetrated our armor in Iraq.

Through congressional action and the work of the Trump administration, we strengthened bilateral ties with our closest friends and allies, including Israel and Jordan. This summer, the administration helped forge historic peace deals between Israel and Arab nations in the region. The United Arab Emirates became the third Arab country and first Gulf State to recognize and normalize relations with Israel by the signing of the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement. It was only a matter of days until Bahrain followed suit and announced its agreement with Israel to open formal diplomatic negotiations.

These historic breakthroughs represent serious progress in our efforts to fight terrorism and establish lasting peace and stability in the Middle East. While more work obviously remains, it is great to see the mounting pressure against Iran—the region's greatest antagonist and largest state sponsor of terrorism.

Last month, the Trump administration announced that it intended to sell arms to our friends in the United Arab Emirates—a move that I support. This will help the UAE work with the United States and our friends to deter and defend these threats from Iran and other hostilities in the region. What it seems to me is that it focused everybody's attention on the recognition that Iran represents the single biggest destabilizing and dangerous influence in the Middle East today, and it is the recognition that they are the common adversary of not only the Arab nations in the region but also the United States and our ally Israel that

has, I think, brought them to the negotiating table.

As Iran grows increasingly belligerent toward the United States and our allies, these military assets that we will sell to our friends in the UAE will serve as a stabilizing force, a force multiplier, and a source of protection for the United States and our security interests. We have learned a hard lesson that American boots on the ground is something we want to do as a last resort. But if we can work by, with, and through our friends and allies to provide that security and stability against a common enemy, we should do it.

The arms sale will allow greater military cooperation between the United States, the UAE, and Israel and strengthen a growing coalition of aligned forces in the region. It will also make sure the United States remains the partner of choice.

It is not as if the United States is the only one that has a say. Obviously, if we don't provide them the military equipment they need, they will go looking for other sellers, and that would certainly be less desirable for us and for them because we are their partner of choice in the region. Russia and particularly China have sought to increase their malign influence in the Middle East, and they would be more than happy to fill the void left by any refusal on the part of the United States to make this sale. So blocking this sale would only strengthen the position of China and Russia, while significantly weakening our own.

As we continue to make progress in the decades-long quest for peace and stability in the Middle East, I support the administration's strategic decision to sell arms to the UAE. This would provide the UAE with critical national security assets, such as access to the F-35 fifth-generation fighter, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other advanced munitions to act as a deterrent, and if worse comes to worse, it actually gives them a comparative advantage with other countries in the region.

The Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, perhaps summed it up best when he said:

What keeps me up at night is actually not the proposed F-35 sale to the Emirates. What keeps me up at night is the idea that somebody would return to the nuclear deal with Iran.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, on another matter, this week, I hope we are able to make more progress on the coronavirus relief negotiations so we can pass another bill before recessing for the holidays. There are a lot of people in this country, all throughout the country, who are hurting, who are anxious, and who are worried about their ability to pay the rent and to meet their other obligations in the face of this pandemic, and I think it would be a dereliction of duty on our part to leave here without addressing those real needs.